



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2011



Location: Senate Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eric Burnley, Sr., Chairman
Bill Baker
Bernie Pankowski
Jack Carpenter (absent)
Floyd Morton III (absent)
Ralph Newberry
David Russell
Sen. Robert L. Venables
Rep. Gerald W. Hocker

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Carla Cassell-Carter
Craig Shirey
David Saveikis, Director
Lacy Nichols, Jr.
Candace Dunning
Stewart Michels
Patrick Emory
Kim Records

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Agenda Item 1. Opening Remarks

Chairman Burnley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude for their attendance. He then briefly clarified this Council's obligation which is to advise the DFW on how to spend general fishing license funds and associated federal dollars on acquisition and construction projects such as: boat ramps, shore fishing facilities, piers, docks, artificial reefs and maintenance projects at existing facilities, which benefit fishermen and fish. Mr. Burnley stated that he intends for tonight's meeting to proceed in an orderly manner. He explained that the last meeting became somewhat disorderly, and that he would like any public comments to be held until the end of regular business, as noted on the agenda.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from May 6, 2010.

Agenda Item 3. Update on Current Projects

Following a hand-out that **Mr. Nichols** prepared, he went over the recently completed projects, including the new Riverview boat ramp in Laurel, improvements to various boating/fishing access area parking lots, and the installation of spring-loaded posts at the Lewes boat ramp. Active projects were reviewed and they include; Cedar Creek boating access area improvements, parking lot improvements and proposed fishing walkway at Garrisons Lake, remaining improvements to various access area parking lots, and Phillips Landing bulkhead improvements. Pending future projects include; improvements to the fishing pier at Scotton Landing, a proposed dredge spoil site at Augustine Beach (Malone Tract), and a decision on how to use the DFW-owned, commercial-rated pier and wharf at Port Mahon where the RV Ringgold used to be docked. One option is to rehabilitate the pier for recreational fishing and the other

option is to rehabilitate the pier and lease it to a commercial fishing venture. The hand-out also included information on three projects that have been deferred.

Agenda Item 4. Update on Funds Available for 2011 Projects

Mr. Shirey referred to the hand-out and stated that he and Ms. Cassell-Carter prepared it to help explain the federal aid process as well as the budget for this year. He explained how the annual apportionment from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works. This year's apportionment is slightly less than the 2010 total of \$3.9 million partially due to declining sales in fishing equipment nationwide. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will reimburse the state through cost sharing. Reimbursements are not made in advance at the beginning of a fiscal year but are instead repaid at \$75 of every \$100 spent on expenses for approved projects. This process is referred to as a 3 to 1 match ratio or 25% match requirement for the federal funds. Along with license dollars or funding support from the General Assembly the DFW can also use "in-kind" match in place of actual dollars. The value of donated materials and the value of volunteer's work hours can be used in place of fishing license dollars as match. The five major categories of fisheries federal aid are: development, research, technical assistance, education and coordination. In regard to large construction projects, the DFW cannot dedicate an entire year's apportionment to construction of a single project because the Division relies on the federal aid program to fund other important programs. Instead, funds are earmarked over a multi-year period until enough is at the ready to complete a project from beginning to end. Tables displaying the 2011 budget were included in the hand-out and dollar amounts were given for the 2011 federal apportionment, 2010 remainder apportionment and 2011 obligated funds. **Ms. Cassell-Carter** commented that the DFW is allowed two years to obligate

funds and three years to spend the funds. After much discussion, and clarification of balances from 2010 to amounts presented tonight for 2011, **Mr. Baker** requested clarification of funds obligated for specific phases of construction projects. He believes there may be confusion stemming from funds being spent for a single project that is divided into several stages.

Agenda Item 5. Discussion on Projects for 2011

The Council prioritized pending construction projects as follows: 1. Garrison's Lake Foot Bridge, 2. Phillips Landing Bulkhead improvements, 3. Parking lot improvements, 4. Scotton Landing fishing pier. Motions were made, seconded and carried for all of the aforesaid projects.

Mr. Pankowski made a motion that the DFW add, in layman's terms, a brief explanation of where license funds go to the annual Fishing Guide (starting next year).

Mr. Baker seconded this motion and it was passed. **Mr. Baker** then made a motion that the DFW provide brief, easy-to-interpret information (in the form of a flyer, chart, or poster), which explains where funds generated from the general fishing license are spent, to Delaware's bait and tackle stores (license agents for the DFW). **Mr. Russell** seconded this motion and it was also passed.

Agenda Item 6. Overview on Where License Funds Go

Ms. Cassell-Carter was going to give a Power Point presentation, but due to the lack of the necessary equipment, she provided a hand-out of copies of the slides instead. The handout began by reviewing the DFW's mission and the legislative purpose for the creation of this Advisory Council. Ms. Cassell-Carter went over the funding sources since 2008 and the amounts with a preliminary estimate for 2011 license revenues. Yearly totals were provided for license revenues, the required match and the Sport Fish Restoration apportionment. She then explained that license funds are deposited with the State Treasurer, earmarked for matching funds in order to secure federal funds in accordance with assent legislation, and then after fully matching the federal apportionment the funds can be expended on fish and wildlife resources according to guidelines by the Department. Activities funded by license revenues that are not eligible for federal assistance include, shellfish and commercial fisheries management, regulation development, federal registry development, revenue collection, licensing activities and audits. Some of the ways Sport Fish Restoration funds are used include, management of Delaware's saltwater and freshwater fisheries, preserving land for fisheries and wetland habitat protection, monitoring fish populations and collect vital fisheries statistics, investigation of fish kills and diseases, controlling aquatic weeds, supporting the development of artificial reefs, educating Delawareans about the importance of fishing and aquatic resources and construction and maintenance of boating and fishing access areas. **Mr. Baker** inquired about a topic that was brought up during a previous meeting – incorporating the Fisherman Information Network (FIN) number with the

electronic sale of the fishing license. He commented that he has changed his mind since that meeting and would like this feature to be added to agent sales of the general fishing license. **Ms. Cassell-Carter** responded that modules have been tested and, at this point, it would just be a matter of switching this feature on. She added that the DFW will ask for some patience in educating and preparing all of the license agents for this new addition to electronic sales. After some discussion among the Council, a motion was passed to support incorporating FIN numbers with the electronic sale of the general fishing license.

Agenda Item 7. Public Comments

Mr. Bob Watson from Millsboro requested that the Council and the DFW give consideration in the future to docking facilities at various ponds due to the difficulty some people have in boarding and departing boats. The DFW will investigate the areas for feasibility and hopefully report findings at the next meeting. **Mr. Marvin Kahl** questioned whether or not license agents for the DFW will see an increase in the fee they are allowed for the service of selling licenses. This issue falls under legislative jurisdiction. He also requested details regarding the pending closure of the Cedar Creek boat ramp but dates have not been finalized yet. Mr. Kahl asked how individuals are appointed (by the Governor) to this council and he was told that there is a request form available via the State of Delaware's website (www.delaware.gov) or by calling the Governor's Office. **Mr. Bruce Allen** inquired about the possibility of dredging at the mouth of the Murderkill River. Mr. Allen was told to contact Chuck Williams with the Division of Watershed Stewardship.

Agenda Item 8. Ending Remarks & Adjournment

Mr. Burnley stated that, for the next meeting, this Council would like to re-visit the topic of improvements at the Rosedale Beach access area. Adjournment followed at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Records
Recording Secretary